

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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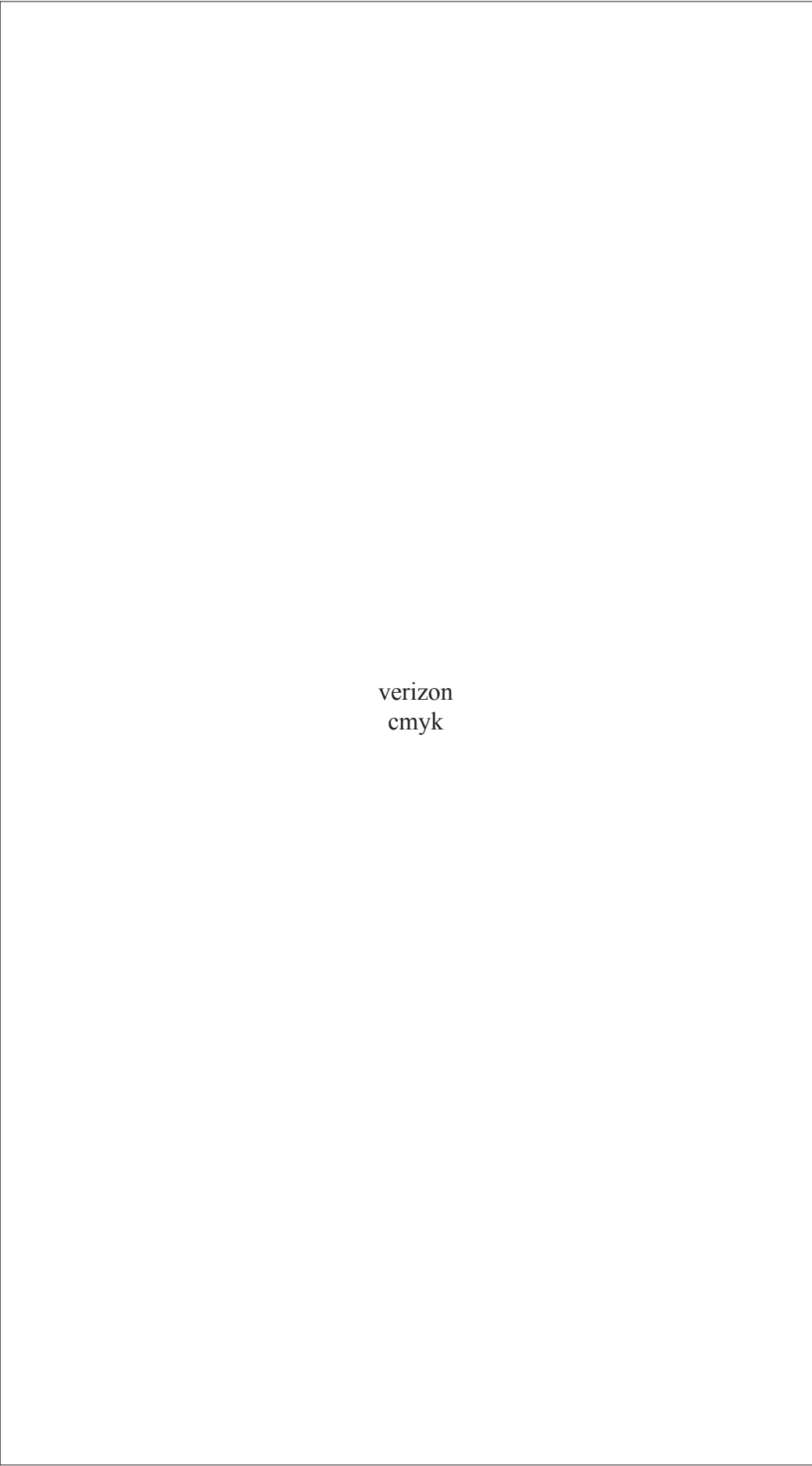
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I N S I D E

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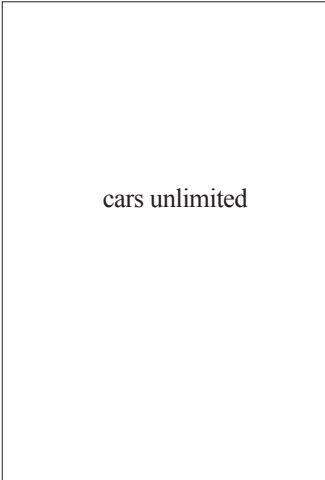
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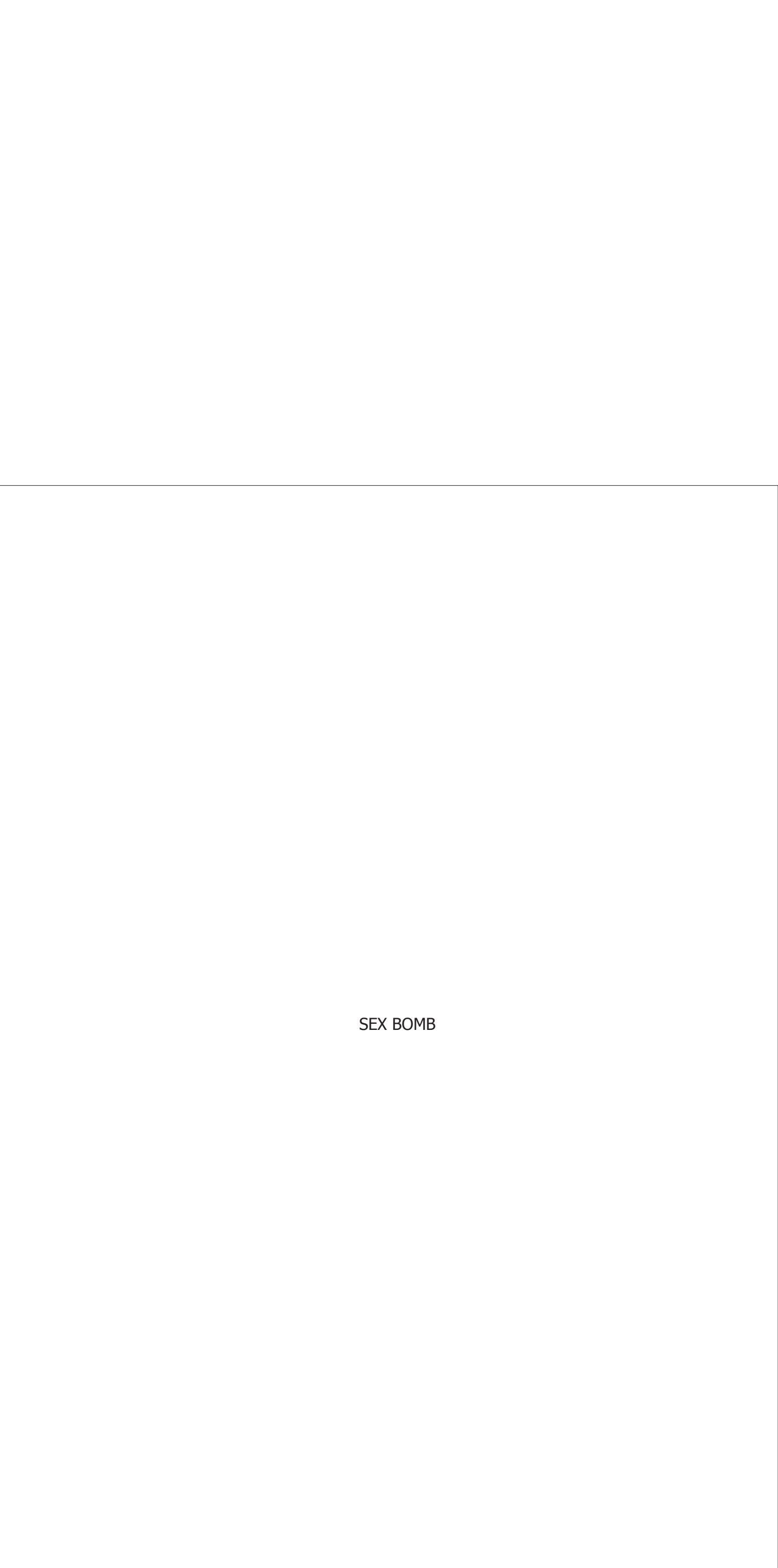
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CITY	FORECAST	HIGH	LOW
 Auckland	Partly Cloudy	60F (16C)	46F (8C)
 Beijing	Sunny	91F (33C)	64F (18C)
 Hong Kong	Thunder	90F (32C)	79F (26C)
 Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87F (31C)	72F (22C)
 London, England	Showers	66F (19C)	51F (11C)
 Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	80F (27C)	62F (17C)
 Manila	Thunder	93F (34C)	82F (28C)
 Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	58F (14C)	42F (6C)
 Miami	Sunny	91F (33C)	76F (24C)
 New York City	Rain	70F (21C)	60F (16C)
 Osaka	Sunny	70F (21C)	55F (13C)
 Paris	Showers	65F (18C)	49F (9C)
 Pusan	Sunny	74F (23C)	61F (16C)
 Rome	Cloudy	68F (20C)	51F (11C)
 Salem, Oregon	Sunny	74F (23C)	50F (10C)
 San Francisco	Sunny	67F (19C)	53F (12C)
 Seoul	Sunny	81F (27C)	60F (16C)
 Tokyo, Japan	Rain	68F (20C)	60F (16C)
 Washington, DC	Thunder	84F (29C)	64F (18C)





SEX BOMB

HANMI upbeat despite slim decline in occupancy

While October posted a decline in hotel room occupancy, hoteliers are optimistic recent developments in the visitor industry could lead to a turnaround in the coming months. HANMI figures, which cover a 12-year period from 1992, show October has historically been a slow month for tourism.

According to HANMI, average room occupancy for October this year was 63.26 percent, slightly lower than the 63.67 percent recorded for the same month last year. In 2002,

average room occupancy was 54.68 percent.

Moreover, HANMI statistics showed that average daily room rate for October 2004 was \$73.62. Last year, the average daily room rate for the same month was \$75.51; in 2002, it was \$72.05. Hotel room occupancy for September this year was 79.33 percent; average daily room rate was \$78.05.

"While October wasn't one of the better months of the year, we are encouraged

about the general outlook for tourism, with several recent positive developments in the market," said HANMI chairperson Lynn A. Knight.

She said a promising turn of events highlight the need for lawmakers to reconsider plans to slash the Marianas Visitors Authority's budget from \$7 million to around \$4 million.

"With the opportunities we now have to improve tourism, it's all the more important that MVA continues to have the budget it needs to promote the

destination, so we do hope the budget will be put back to the original level of \$7 million for 2005," said Knight.

MVA had submitted a \$14-million spending package for fiscal year 2005 to the Legislature. MVA operated on a \$7-million budget in FY 2004. Lawmakers are still deliberating on MVA's budget for FY 2005.

Knight said the approval of the CNMI government's application with the People's Republic of China for an Approved

Destination Status—a signing ceremony for the memorandum of understanding is set to take place soon—is expected to give local tourism a much-needed shot in the arm.

Another factor, said Knight, are the new direct flights of Continental Airlines to Hong Kong, Taipei and Manila, which will make it much more convenient to attract visitors from these markets.

The opening of the Paseo de Marianas Garapan pedestrian mall on Nov. 9 last week, and

ongoing renovations at various hotels like World Resort Saipan, Dai-Ichi Hotel Saipan Beach, Hotel Nikko Saipan and Aqua Resort Club, among others, are also expected to help boost tourism.

"It was a pleasure to help celebrate the kick off of Aqua Resort's renovation this week and we are also expecting that several of Saipan's resorts will be renovating in the coming year. These developments are all positive for the destination," said Knight.

Babauta flies to DC

Gov. Juan N. Babauta is currently off-island and will not be back until about the end of this week. Babauta left the island Monday morning.

When asked, acting Gov. Digo T. Benavente said the governor would be in Washington D.C. to meet with key federal officials.

"It's a scheduled trip," he said.

The Governor's Office, however, could not provide details of the weeklong travel.

Benavente said he was informed by the governor about the trip to D.C. last week. "He will be meeting with officials in D.C."

Babauta, who has been criticized for his numerous trips abroad, last traveled to the U.S. mainland in September for the Department of the Interior-sponsored annual business conference for territories.

Babauta had also left for Washington D.C. end of May this year to personally submit a verified list of "stateless children" to Indiana Rep. Dan Burton.

During that trip, Babauta was said to have followed up on issues with federal agencies such as the Department of the



Babauta

Interior and the Department of Homeland Security.

Babauta had then extended his trip to include Hawaii and Guam to meet with local and federal officials to discuss, among others, the CNMI's bid for its own National Guard unit.

Earlier, this year, Babauta, together with key local officials, traveled to D.C. to attend a congressional hearing on public health situation in the islands.

Babauta had also gone to China, among other places, this year. (*Liberty Dones*)

Man arrested for allegedly hitting his wife with phone

A man landed in jail after allegedly hitting his common-law wife with a telephone.

Police arrested 36-year-old Frank Hocog Ramangmou for alleged assault.

Superior Court Associate Judge David Wiseman imposed a \$5,000-bail on Ramangmou on Monday, after ruling that probable cause exists to believe that the defendant probably committed the crimes of attempted aggravated assault and battery and disturbing the peace.

The judge, however, ruled that there is no probable cause to charge the defendant with assault and battery.

In a sworn declaration submitted by police detective Andrea Carr Ozawa to the court, the investigator said the couple was recently at their Susupe residence when an unidentified

person threw a rock at the house around midnight.

The defendant then accused the victim that the unidentified person just wanted to have sex with her and yelled profanities at her, the detective said.

The following morning, Ramangmou told his wife to buy cigarette for him, the detective said. She refused and grabbed the phone to call her brother.

Police said Ramangmou suddenly grabbed the phone from the woman and attempted to hit her face with the equipment. The woman, however, managed to block the phone with her hands.

Fearing a more serious assault, the woman grabbed a machete for her protection, police said. Ramangmou stopped the alleged assault, but she later went to the police to complain against her husband. (*John Ravelo*)

MOBIL



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Front row, from left, are Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente, municipal council secretary Antonia M. Tudela, Gov. Juan N. Babauta; NMHC director Marylou S. Ada, chair Gregorio V. Deleon Guerrero, and vice chair David A. Indalecio. Back row, from left, are Thomas C. Duenas and Melvin B. Sablan.

PACIFIC MEDICAL CENTER

AYUDA TURKEY WALK

Concrete homes for low income families backed

The 8th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council is urging Gov. Juan N. Babauta and the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.’s board of directors to find means to assist low-income families construct homes made of concrete.

In a recently adopted resolution, council members said that the islands are frequently visited by tropical storms and typhoons. In the last eight months alone, the islands were devastated by Typhoon Tinting and Supertyphoon Chaba, with damages to government and private facilities estimated at over \$20 million.

Supertyphoon Chaba knocked down telephone poles, trees, plants, and signboards, and sunk boats at the Saipan Seaport. The heavy downpour flooded roads, making them impassable. Rocks and sand carried by strong floodwaters also blocked Sugar King Road, while an overflowing Lake Susupe forced residents to flee their homes. The typhoon also caused other damage to properties.

Chaba also sent house rooftops flying, leaving many residents homeless. Many were forced to go to designated typhoon shelters—the Tanapag, Garapan, Oleai, San Vicente, William S. Reyes, Koblerville, Dandan, Kagman, and Tinian elementary schools; Marianas High School; Primary Building K and Secondary Building I of the Rota Aging Office and other undesignated typhoon shelters—because their houses were constructed of tin and wooden structures.

“The Marianas Public Land Trust Fund should be tapped to provide a fixed low interest rate loan to qualified low income families to construct their primary residences with concrete materials,” part of the resolution reads.

The resolution was certified by municipal council chair Gregorio V. Deleon Guerrero and vice chair David A. Indalecio and attested by secretary Antonia M. Tudela.

CoCo formed to broaden environmental awareness

By JOHN RAVELO
REPORTER

There’s a new catchword and a mascot that symbolize interagency efforts to educate the public on various environmental concerns: CoCo.

CoCo, the name of the coconut crab mascot, also stands for the CNMI Organization for Conservation Outreach.

“Coconut crabs live on land, but when the females are ready to lay their eggs, they return to the sea. And that’s where the babies are born, in the sea. So you see, CoCo needs a clean environment both on the land and in the sea in order to survive, which is why we chose her for our mascot,” coral outreach specialist Qamar Schuyler said before a crowd of students and government officials at the Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station Monday.

Government agencies formed CoCo with a mission “to preserve, protect, and enhance environmental integrity by encouraging responsible stewardship of the CNMI’s natural resources.”

Participating agency representatives include those from the Coastal Resources Management Office, Division of Environmental Quality, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Public School System, Northern Marianas College, and the Public Works and Land and Natural Resources Departments.

“We are working together to improve our environment by carrying out outreach and education projects involving all areas of the environment from the summit to the sea, including litter and recycling, land habitat issues, coral reef degradation, nonpoint source pollution, and water quality,” said Schuyler, coral outreach specialist for the CRM, DEQ and DLNR’s Division of Fish and Wildlife.

“We aim to educate and involve the public because the success of our natural resource management programs depends on a supportive and informed community,” she said.

To involve the community in environmental protection efforts, CoCo also plans to conduct informal quarterly public meetings. CoCo slated the first meeting on Dec. 15, from 5pm to 8pm, at the Minacham Atdao Pavilion in San Jose.

“We’ll have food, great conversation, and a chance for you to tell CoCo what you want from her,” Schuyler said.

Last Monday, CoCo joined in the celebration of America Recycles Day 2004, telling students the benefits of recycling, such as extending the lifespan of the Marpi landfill.



Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Sneezing, aching and anger

Even the most ardent libertarian is hard-pressed to argue against government protection from serious public health dangers. Tuberculosis. Typhoid fever. Polio. Influenza. All communicable, predictable and, in varying degrees, deadly. It's not just sympathy for the suffering victims that drives the idea. Even a week off work by one of every dozen employees carries a shattering total cost to the national economy.

So why was the health bureaucracy of the richest nation in the world caught off guard this week by the loss of half the 100 million flu vaccine doses it had been expecting this season? The shutdown of a key vaccine factory in Liverpool, England, because of bacterial contamination seemed to catch the U.S. government, to say nothing of thousands of hospitals, completely by surprise.

British regulators detected manufacturing errors that inspectors from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration missed. Though it's possible that the full story won't be known for months, it's already abundantly clear that when vaccine maker Chiron Corp. first revealed serious contamination problems at its factory in August, British health officials quickly found other suppliers. Their citizens are not facing a vaccine shortage. U.S. doctors and hospitals will have to turn away millions of supplicants and are likely to see many of them back in costly emergency rooms in coming months with highly infectious flu.

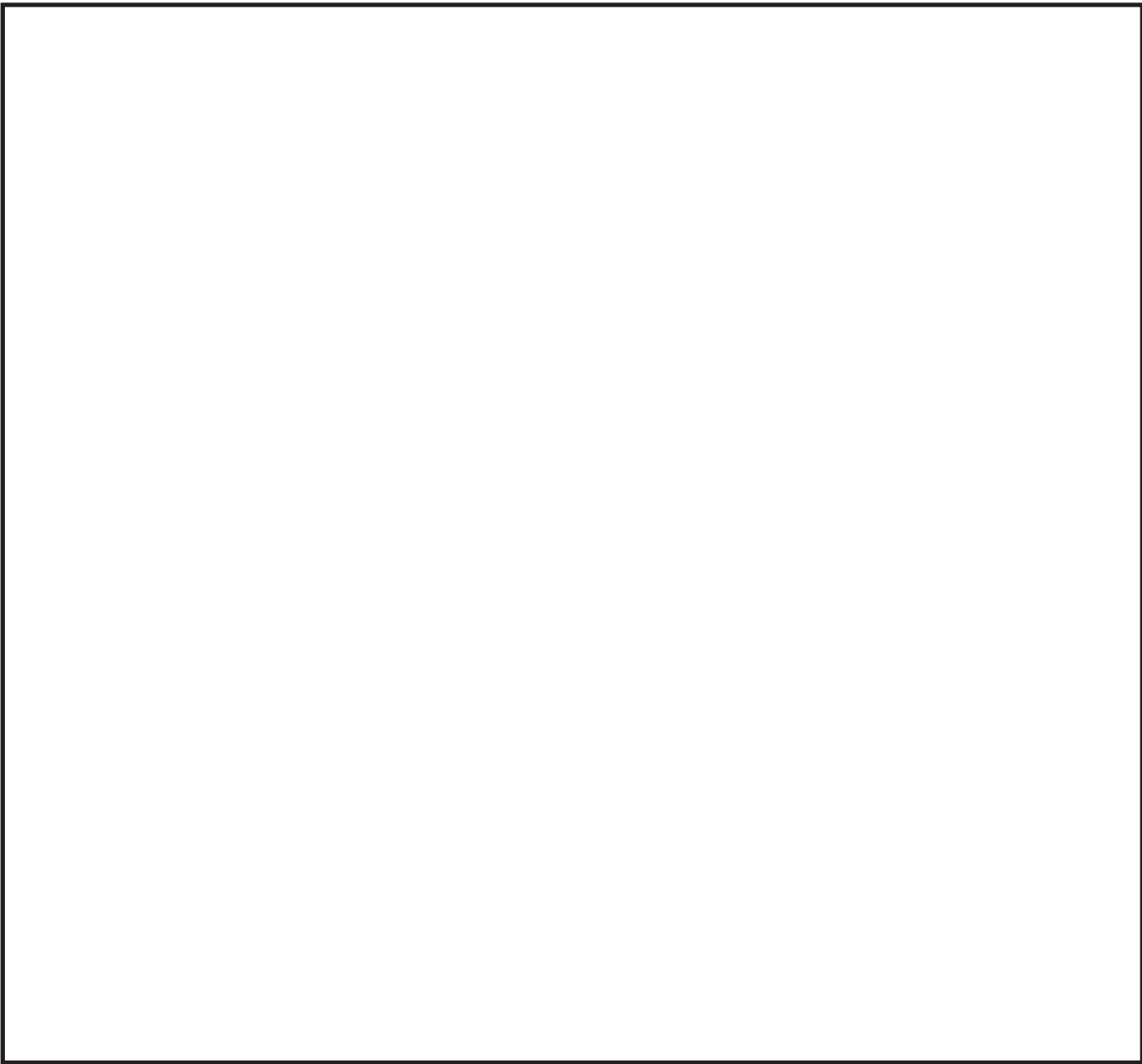
Because it takes up to six months to produce more vaccine, there is no way to fill the chasm created by the three-month closure of the Chiron factory. All that's left is triage, seeking ways to shift the supplies left to the elderly, ill and very young. A congressional hearing Friday failed to identify any efficient way to do so.

In the longer run, Congress can at least set aside more money for researching new vaccine production techniques, which have changed little since British physician Edward Jenner began antiviral vaccinations by inoculating his patients against smallpox in the 18th century. Congress has funded only half of the \$100million the Bush administration requested earlier this year to research the most promising new technique—making the vaccine not from chicken eggs, which take months to hatch, but from readily available animal cells. The need for haste should now be obvious to legislators.

Congress also ought to be asking why the U.S. is dependent on just two manufacturers, with much of the supply coming from abroad. What's missing in the regulatory arena?

Flu vaccines are an unalloyed social good. Public health officials consumed with stockpiling smallpox vaccine and sarin antidotes against a terror attack now face a human and economic cost that would make a terrorist shiver with glee. The boring business of flu vaccine is suddenly a crisis, and government has to own up to its responsibility.

(c) 2004, Los Angeles Times



Eight simple questions from a veteran

By KEITH W. MINES
SPECIAL TO THE BALTIMORE SUN

I am a 28-year veteran of the active Army and Reserves, having served the nation in civilian and military assignments in Grenada, Honduras, El Salvador, Somalia, Haiti, Afghanistan and Iraq.

I am the son of an artillery forward observer who fought in the Pacific in World War II, the father of a young man who will reach military age during the next administration and is anxious to get into uniform, the uncle of a Marine who was on his way to the Ramadi-Fallujah area of Iraq (his second deployment), and the second cousin of a young soldier who recently returned from a year in Sadr City.

I am from the class of Americans that fights our wars, as opposed to the class that theorizes and fantasizes about them. As I vote Nov. 2, I will not take with me the impressions garnered from the candidates' use of the armed forces as campaign props in the conventions and debates. Rather, I will ask the following questions about how the next president will organize our military for war and how he will position our country in the world:

Will you increase the size of the military? I have yet to meet anyone in uniform at any rank who believes that the current force is large enough to manage the totality of America's threats. In the wake of 9/11, we are involved in a manpower-intensive fight with huge unknowns. We need a big increase in our armed forces to manage the threats, several new permanent divisions for the Army and Marines and large increases in our special operations forces and reserve force, at a minimum.

Will you maintain the post-Vietnam force structure? After Vietnam, our military was restructured so that it would be impossible to go to war without a national consensus by making Reserve and National Guard units essential to any large campaign. This made deployments slightly slower but enhanced long-term national support for our operations. I would be extremely leery of moves to return the military to a federal force that could be deployed without this consensus.

Will you build lasting alliances? Forget the go-it-alone machis-

mo. It might bring the crowds to their feet on the campaign trail, but for the soldiers and Marines who are now deploying for the second time in Iraq, more allies would be welcome.

Will you carry out policies that will anger the world? There is an endless supply of recruits for al-Qaida and other terrorist spin-offs, part of the huge middle ground that is waiting to be persuaded to fight against us or to leave us alone. How we conduct ourselves in the world will help determine which way the middle moves. I want a president who inspires respect and is viewed positively, not one who enrages and infuriates.

Will you forcibly repudiate Abu Ghraib? The Abu Ghraib prison scandal may be the biggest foreign policy disaster since Vietnam. By leaving in its wake images of American sexual and physical domination of Arab men, it will inspire our enemies and enhance recruiting for groups that wish to hurt us at a time when the ability to damage us has increased manyfold. I seek a president who will forcibly repudiate these actions and contain their long-term damage.

Will you listen to your military advisers? It is understood by civilian leaders of the armed forces that their job is to set policy and allow the military to carry it out. When the civilian leadership gets too deeply involved in the nuts and bolts of military operations, things tend to go awry.

Do you have a strategy? Since 9/11, we have devised a number of tools for fighting terrorism but have yet to develop a toolbox. Neither candidate has laid out a comprehensive strategy for our current conflict or a paradigm for the post-Cold War world. I would be interested in a doctrine, however flexible and broad, that could replace containment and guide our policies and practices, giving us something more creative than simply "staying the course."

Do you understand the world? While it is not the nature of our political system to offer leaders who are well traveled and have lived abroad, some understanding of the world would be helpful for a wartime leader.

Bush and Kerry may continue to waste money on petty attack ads and counterattack ads if they like, but to win this veteran's vote, they would do better to answer these eight simple questions.

Mines is a major in the Army Special Forces Reserve.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

In the land where Soviet style lives on

By **PETER SAVODNIK**
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Vladimir Putin's recent call for a new Russian authoritarianism—and the near-total support the president's proposal enjoys at home—should rattle not only Western diplomats but democratic opposition leaders throughout the former Soviet Union. For them, Russia's reversal raises a fundamental, even existential, question: Are the people living in the 15 former Soviet republics capable of governing themselves? Do they yearn to be free? Or is it their nature to acquiesce to dictatorship when the apparent price of freedom—say, the massacre of hundreds of schoolchildren—becomes too expensive?

This question of post-Soviet political identity is particularly salient in Belarus, Russia's immediate neighbor to the west: On Oct. 17, Belarusians, having rejected freedom in favor of security a decade ago, head to the polls for parliamentary elections. Their dictatorial president, Alexander Lukashenko, has shown little appetite for democratic reform. But the liberal activists running for office—a hodgepodge of social democrats, free marketeers, reconstructed Marxists and others who call themselves the Five-Plus Coalition—believe now is their moment.

This is, at least for the present, a dubious proposition. In Belarus, the fourth estate is more or less an organ of Lukashenko's regime, and elections are for show; fears of ballot tampering and last-minute disqualification of democratic candidates are rampant. Before liberal reform can sweep Belarus or Russia, Ukraine, Moldova or Georgia, the people of those nations will have to choose whether they want to be subjects or citizens, whether they want the right (and the responsibility) to build their own future. This may sound odd to Americans, since most of us take it for granted that all peoples want to be the masters of their own destinies. But at a time when the United States is exporting, or attempting to export, democracy to the Middle East, it's legitimate to ask whether, in fact, everyone everywhere wants to be like us. Our experience in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as the uncertainty surrounding the post-Soviet world, should give us pause.

Stanislav Shushkevich, the former head of the Supreme Soviet of Belarus and current leader of the Social Democratic Party, voices skepticism about the democratic movement's chances of making any headway this year, even as he remains committed to the idea of democracy. He points out that Belarusians have been condi-

tioned by centuries of oppression to put up with almost anything; a quarter of the pre-war Belarusian population was murdered by the Soviets and the Nazis in the 1930s and '40s. To many, Lukashenko is but a pale shadow of Stalin and Brezhnev, an utterly unexceptional postscript to socialist totalitarianism. Indeed, Lukashenko retains support among peasants living in pre-Soviet villages, and the pensioners and World War II veterans whose lives were defined by the struggle against fascism, five-year plans and the socialist march toward "freedom."

When I visited him in the capital city of Minsk last May, Shushkevich, who is nearing 70, speculated that the moment for peaceful transition may have been lost. A former nuclear physicist, it was he, along with Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk, then president of Ukraine, who formally dissolved the Soviet Union in a Belarusian hunting lodge in late 1991.

Ten million Belarusians who had been rotting away in a "workers' paradise" haunted by the gulag and made nearly uninhabitable by the Chernobyl disaster were set free. A liberal regime took power, with Shushkevich at its head. But the West, Shushkevich told me, missed its best opportunity to help build a stable democracy when it failed to give Belarus low-interest loans. The "shock therapy" of privatization proved too great for Belarusians, he said. Lukashenko, a parliamentary deputy at the time, was able to capitalize on widespread discontent.

After three years of independence, the Belarusians decided they'd had enough of democracy. With the 1994 election of Lukashenko, they made clear what they wanted: Order, predictability and an all-powerful state to safeguard against drug traffickers, arms dealers and foreign investors looking to carve up downtown Minsk. They also made it clear what they did not want: Freedom. The freedom to build a life, to express an opinion, to be more than a cog in the communal organism.

Today, Lukashenko is the unquestioned dictator of his country, having spent the past decade marginalizing opposition leaders, shutting down independent newspapers and squeezing business owners to the point of near-extinction.

Shushkevich doesn't foresee a peaceful evolution to a more democratic society. He believes that a challenge to Lukashenko is more likely to resemble what took place in Romania, where dictator Nicolae Ceaucescu was murdered in 1989, than in Czechoslovakia, where a bloodless Velvet Revolution toppled the communist regime that same year. "My parents and grandparents would put it this way," he said of Lukashenko's long-

term prospects. "This man will not die a natural death."

This is indeed a critical time, and not only in Belarus. Ukrainians will vote for their next president on Oct. 31, and the recent suspected poisoning of opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko is just one of many signs that reform will not come easily to the former Soviet Union.

In the longer term, though, there are reasons to be hopeful. First, Belarus is not a place like Iraq, with its ancient hatreds, war-torn cities and radical theocrats hellbent on annihilating all things Western. It is a European nation with churches, newspapers and an intelligentsia that has given rise to a protest class of students, trade unionists, veterans of the Afghan war, even ex-KGB agents.

More importantly, it is not defined so much by language, ethnicity or race as by geography. "I think ethnic origins don't mean anything," said poet Nikolai Viniatski, while taking part in a protest against the regime in Minsk last spring. Belarus is populated by Orthodox Russians, Polish Catholics, even a smattering of Jews. Inter-marriage is easy and ubiquitous. It was the Soviets who concocted this mix, as part of their plan to "de-ethnicize" the proletarian mass. And now, ironically, it is that cultural re-engineering of a half-century ago that is laying the foundation for post-Soviet democracy, activists believe. In Belarus, Viniatski explained, there is no tribalism; the ethnic tension that colors life in the Baltics, the conflagration that is the Caucasus, could never happen here. People are, for the most part, comfortable with difference. You might call them post-ethnic.

You might also call them post-ideological. In Belarus, they know that Marx's scientific materialism is dead. That dream turned out to be a joke for which tens of millions died. This has made Belarusians bitter and ironic. Over vodka, in their kitchens, they call their fearless leader a buffoon who likes to work out with the national hockey team but has been barred from the White House. They wonder when they will be able to join the community of nations.

All this can be to the good, even if the elections later this month are unlikely to spark a revolution. In Belarus's East European neighbors and elsewhere, after all, bitterness and irony have often served as a ripe medium for change.

The author is political editor of the Hill newspaper in Washington. He traveled to Belarus on a fellowship from the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The CNMI gubernatorial leadership: 1978-2004

First of five parts

The CNMI became a bona fide Commonwealth in 1978. Over the past 26 years, the registered electorate in the CNMI has elected six governors to provide leadership, direction, and vision for the island community. Of the six governors, two were affiliated with the Democrat Party and three with the Grand Old Party (GOP). One of the governors, Pedro P. Tenorio, a Republican, served three terms covering a span of 12 years. The names of the governors and their terms in office are: Carlos S. Camacho (Democrat) 1978 to 1982; Pedro P. Tenorio (Republican) 1982 to 1990; Lorenzo I. De Leon Guerrero (Republican) 1990 to 1994; Froilan C. Tenorio (Democrat) 1994 to 1998; Pedro P. Tenorio (Republican) 1998 to 2002; and Juan N. Babauta (Republican) 2002 to present.

During the administrations of each of the above-referenced governors, there were fiscal decisions made by each governor based on advice conveyed to them by their closest advisers that either helped or hindered the financial health of the CNMI. The economic reports that have been generated by the CNMI Department of Finance and Bank of Hawaii since the inception of the Commonwealth have meticulously delineated the financial particulars of what transpired fiscally during the terms of all of the CNMI governors.

Because the "truth" should always be in the forefront for the electorate, it is vitally important that the entire island community be made aware of the "true facts" involving all of the leaders who

have been elected as governor for the CNMI. Understanding these facts will enable everyone to utilize a "fact check" and discern whether anything that any former or current governor says reflects the "truth" or something other than the truth.

The following cliché is something that I consider relative and perhaps it might keep everything in the proper perspective; and it goes like this: Figures don't lie, but liars figure. Figures are substantive unless they have been manipulated, and rhetoric is empty unless it reflects the truth.

From 1978 through 1988

The Northern Mariana Islands Economic Report generated by the Bank of Hawaii in 1995 stated that "during the first decade of the Commonwealth from 1978 through 1988, the CNMI maintained "balanced budgets." With respect to giving credit for maintaining fiscal responsibility for the Commonwealth, Carlos S. Camacho and Pedro P. Tenorio were the governors who clearly kept the fiscal reigns of the CNMI government under very good control and did not allow the island community to experience the hardship of operating under a deficit and having to deal with fiscal constraints. Unfortunately, this financial stability that was established by these two fiscally-minded governors during the late 1970's and 1980's is a thing of the past and a far cry from what currently exists today.

The Bank of Hawaii economic report of 1995 also revealed that

"in the 1988-1991 economic booms, the CNMI produced a surplus of revenues in each of the four fiscal years. The total amount of revenues collected versus what was expended during the above-mentioned four-year timeframe were included in the BOH economic report of 1999; they are as follows and depict "millions of dollars": 1988 (Revenues—87,301; Expenditures—42,049); 1989 (Revenues—95,750; Expenditures—81,217); 1990 (Revenues—116,749; Expenditures—108,632); 1991 (Revenues—151,019; Expenditures—156,319). The net result of all four fiscal years was a surplus of nearly \$70 million.

Hence, Pedro P. Tenorio was able to move the government into a surplus mode for the last two years of his second term from 1988 to 1990 and maintained the fiscal stability for the CNMI that Carlos S. Camacho established as the first governor.

In summary, the CNMI enjoyed "balanced budgets" and the generation of surplus revenues during the governorships of Carlos S. Camacho and Pedro P. Tenorio's. Because they exercised control in keeping the government fiscally stable, both Carlos S. Camacho and Pedro P. Tenorio should be recognized as two of the most fiscally responsible governors in the history of the CNMI.

To be continued.

Dr. Jesus D. Camacho
Delano, California

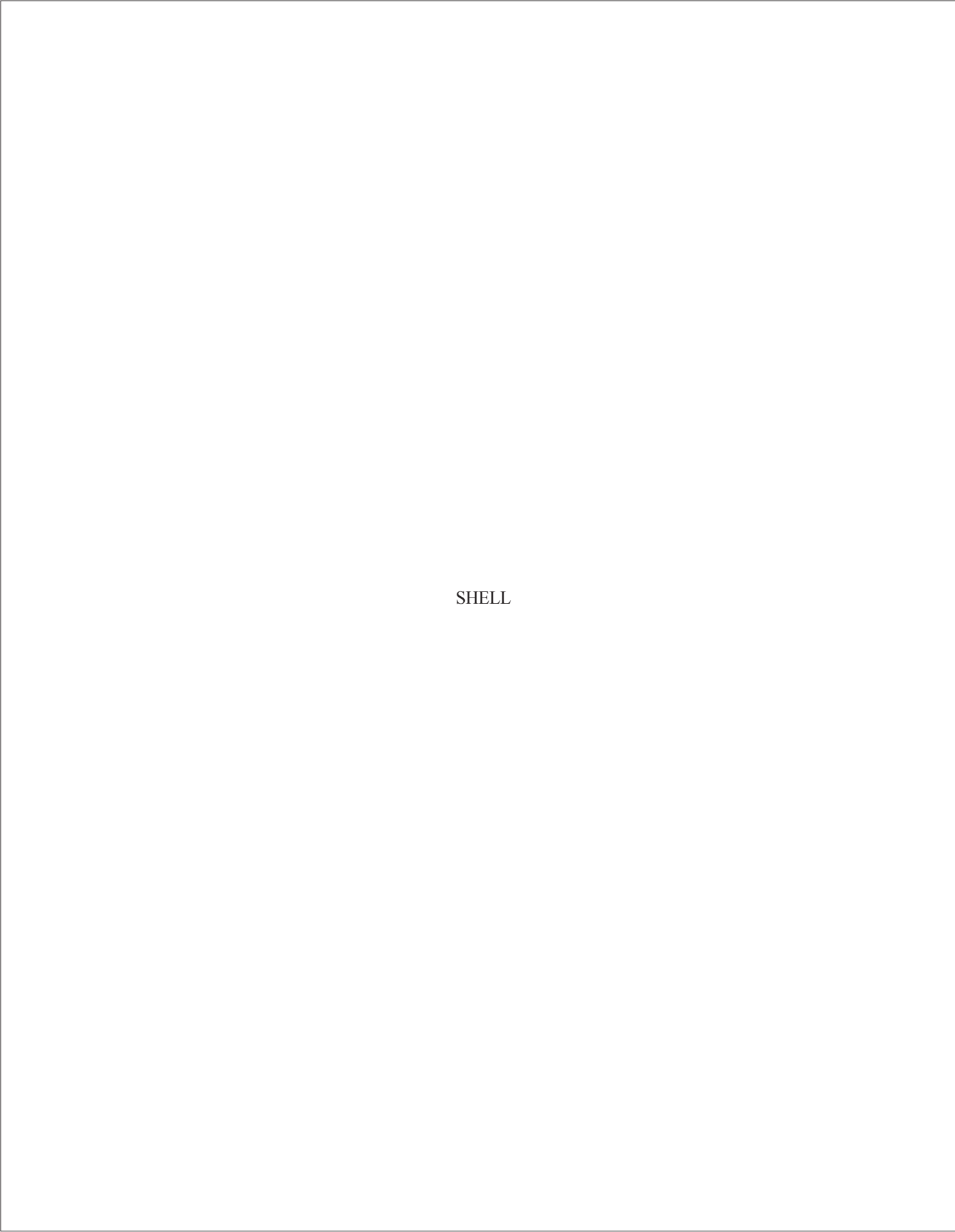
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Island Snapshots

Nation





World



Campus Life

Midyear moves affect students and schools

By **BEN FELLER**
AP EDUCATION WRITER

Schools are under orders to make sure no child is left behind, but that can be tough to do when so many children are moving. At least four in 10 students change schools one or more times by the time they are 17, on top of their normal progression from elementary and middle schools to high school.

Students typically switch locations for reasons involving their parents—from job changes and marital breakups to military assignments and seasonal work for migrants.

The moves mean millions of children must adjust not just socially but academically, particularly when they switch midyear and cross state lines. Each state chooses its own curriculum, testing and definition of success.

When Jenna Gosser's family moved from San Diego to Saginaw, Texas, on Oct. 1, she was studying the colonies. Her new class was past that already, and had moved on to the Bill of Rights.

Jenna, 13, also wound up in the middle of a lesson about a writer she barely knew, Edgar Allan Poe. And she had no preparation for proportions, the topic in her math class.

"I'm trying to catch up, and it's getting easier," said Jenna, an eighth-grader at Highland Middle School in Saginaw, a Fort Worth suburb. "I'm hoping that it gets way easier. It's really hard."

The Gossers made the choice many families do: They moved for a better life, even if it meant short-term struggles at school for Jenna and her younger sister, Taylor. They bought a house in suburban Fort Worth, and now Jenna and Taylor see much more of their father, a truck driver who switched from a night shift to a day shift.

Both girls say their teachers have given them extra support, delighting their parents.

"If we didn't make this move now, it would have been even tougher as Jenna approached high school," said Monica Gosser, the girls' mother. "I'm sure it's hard now, but I think they're going to get more out of it in the long run."

At Fort Belvoir Elementary, a public school on an Army post in Fairfax County, Va., hundreds of its 1,300 children come and go during the year. As military dependents, they arrive from far-flung places—including Panama, Germany and Alaska—that have varying academic standards.

So the Virginia school has afterschool programs, Saturday classes and volunteer help

from the military to aid students. "It's built into the system to not even be surprised. You just make it happen," said counselor Peggy Moore.

Children in military families often have more support than others who move often, said Russell Rumberger, a professor of education at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

His research in California found students who changed high schools even once were less than half as likely to graduate than other students, even when controlling for other factors. They also were more likely to have trouble making friends and less likely to participate in afterschool activities, Rumberger found.

Even students who didn't move were influenced, as the turnover around them affected classroom instruction and teacher morale.

"Transferring is disruptive," he said. "It can end up better or worse, but there are costs—costs to the family, costs to the school, costs to the kid."

In Houston, homeless children may move four or five times each school year as their families shuttle between shelters. The school district identified more than 1,000 such children last year and provided transportation so each could stay enrolled at one school.

Along the Hudson River north of New York City, many Hispanic migrant families move in during the year to make a living by harvesting apples, corn, onions and other crops. State workers seek out children in these families, direct them toward school and tutoring and ensure parents know their rights. Most school districts respond well, said David Sokolove, coordinator of the Mid-Hudson Migrant Education Outreach Program.

"We don't want a school to see these kids as invisible, to think that their job is just to house them," Sokolove said. "We want them to get the same priority the year-round children get."

Schools, under pressure to make yearly progress under the No Child Left Behind law, have a cushion when it comes to student mobility. They only count the test scores of students who have been with

them for a full academic year.

The same is true for school districts and states. The idea is that schools should not be judged on the progress of children they have had little time to teach.

But such flexibility also means no one is really accountable for many students who move during the year, said Katrina Kelley, director of the Council of Urban Boards of Education for the National School Boards Association.

The federal law does require schools to issue report cards

showing how migrant students are doing, said Doug Mesecar, deputy chief of staff for policy at the Education Department. The law also pushes schools to align their tests to state standards, which should lead to more consistent education for students who move within their state, he said.

Eight-grader Jenna Gosser poses next to her locker at Highland Middle School in Saginaw, Texas, Monday, Oct. 25 2004.

AP



**SHELL
THANKSGIVING**

MELL
+RED/BLUE

Life & Style

'Timeless' Marilyn Monroe exhibit opens

She was Playboy's first centerfold, and Joe DiMaggio's second wife. Marilyn Monroe possessed a knack for the big splash, particularly if there was a camera nearby—and it seemed there was always a camera nearby.

The actress turned enduring American icon was intoxicated by the pop of flashbulbs; during her too-short lifetime, she was photographed drinking and dining, smiling and sleeping, dressed and undressed.

The camera "was to her what water is to a fish," director Billy Wilder once said. "She exulted in it."

More than 200 Monroe pictures from 39 photographers—including such celebrated lensmen as Richard Avedon, Gordon Parks, Robert Frank and Andy Warhol—are on view at the Brooklyn Museum of Art in a new exhibit, "I Want to Be Loved by You: Photographs of Marilyn Monroe."

The photos "are timeless," said Marilyn Kushner, one of the exhibit's curators. "She died young, so she remains forever young. As time goes by, she looms larger and larger."

The exhibit traces the evolution of small-town girl Norma Jeane into sex goddess Marilyn. In a 1945 picture, the unknown 19-year-old stands alone on a Long Island beach, leaning undisturbed over an open parasol.

A decade later, a coy Monroe stands smiling on a Grand Central subway platform as a man to her left stares in bug-eyed disbelief.

The centerpiece of the collection, owned by Leon and Michaela Constantiner, is a set of 59 Monroe pictures shot by photographer Bert Stern in the weeks before the actress' 1962 drug overdose. "The Last Sitting" features an assortment of behind-the-scenes shots of Monroe, who sipped nine-year-old Dom Perignon to create a mood. The actress

posed laughing, with a diamond necklace draped across her bare shoulders, and topless behind a transparent scarf.

More than four decades later, her larger-than-life persona still emanates from each shot, setting the bar for subsequent "blonde bombshells," from Loni Anderson to Madonna to Pamela Anderson.

"Her relationship with the camera was the most important one she had," Kushner said of Monroe. "She saw the camera as a friend."

The most enduring image of Monroe, her infamous photo op for "The Seven Year Itch," is well represented. There are 14 different shots of Monroe's white dress scandalously billowing above her waist as she stood over a Lexington Avenue subway grate.

An infuriated DiMaggio stormed off during the shoot, leaving Monroe alone. Another picture from the exhibit shows a sobbing Monroe leaving in a car after announcing her 1954 divorce from the Yankee Clipper.

Monroe's Playboy centerfold, shot by photographer Tom Kelly, holds a prominent position in the exhibit, with the naked actress seductively posed atop a blanket of red velvet. When a reporter asked Monroe what she had on during the shoot, she memorably replied, "I had the radio on."

There are dozens of other shots offering glances into the off-screen Monroe: Marilyn reading a book at home, shooting craps with director John Huston, slow-dancing with second husband Arthur Miller.

While photographs make up the bulk of the exhibit, the multimedia presentation offers other rarely seen glimpses of Monroe, from a 1950 commercial for Union Oil of California to her provocative serenade of President John F. Kennedy at his 45th birthday in May 1962.

"I can now retire from politics after having had 'Happy Birthday' sung to me in such a sweet, wholesome way," Kennedy deadpanned. Within 18 months, neither he nor Monroe would be alive.

One of the most moving pictures doesn't feature Monroe at all. Shot by Robert Frank in 1962, it shows a woman lying on a beach beneath an American flag. She's reading the Daily News, and the giant-type headline is clearly visible:

"MARILYN DEAD." (AP)



This photograph released by the Brooklyn Museum of Art, titled "Marilyn on the Beach, 1949," is part of a show opening at the museum Friday, Nov. 12, 2004.

AP



This photograph released by the Brooklyn Museum of Art, titled "Marilyn Monroe, 1953" is part of show opening at the museum Friday, Nov. 12, 2004.

AP

SHELL THANKSGIVING

SpongeBob SquarePants coming to surface

LOS ANGELES (AP)—America’s favorite deep-sea sponge is coming to the surface.

SpongeBob SquarePants, a goofy sink utensil who wears a little brown suit and lives in a pineapple at the bottom of the ocean, has spent the past five years on the Nickelodeon TV channel. Now a new film out Friday sends him to a “real world” both simple and surreal.

Here are 10 little-known facts about “The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie” and the origin of a cartoon cult icon:

THE BIRTH OF SPONGEBOB: The movie’s director and “SpongeBob” creator Stephen Hillenburg was a former marine science teacher who wanted to do a sea cartoon. “I really wanted to do something about one character, based on an innocent who is surrounded by more cynical beings ... A sort of awkward, nerdy, goofball, oddball,” he said.

Fish seemed too ordinary, so he started thinking about a sponge.

“I drew these natural sponges for a while and gave them googly eyes and it didn’t come together until I drew a sink sponge one day. I thought, ‘This is the guy.’ He’s the square peg, literally, in this world of animals.”

HELIUM VOICE: Tom Kenny, who supplies SpongeBob’s high, nasal voice, was a standup comic who worked with Hillenburg on the 1993 animal cartoon series “Rocko’s Modern World.” When “SpongeBob” started in 1999, Hillenburg remembered an obscure character Kenny did years earlier, and envisioned it as the voice of his weird sea hero.

“It was in one episode in a crowd scene,” Kenny recalled. “In the voice-over world we call the sound ‘walla,’ just a crowd of people mumbling and grumbling. Steve remembered I had done this squeaky, helium-voiced elf guy. Just a total throwaway voice.”

Kenny had to go back and rewatch the episode to remember how to do it.

NINE TIMES AS ABSORBENT: Most half-hour SpongeBob TV episodes are made of 10-minute shorts, so the new 90-minute film required a different kind of story: SpongeBob and his slowwitted starfish friend Patrick travel to the surface to rescue the crown of temperamental King Neptune.

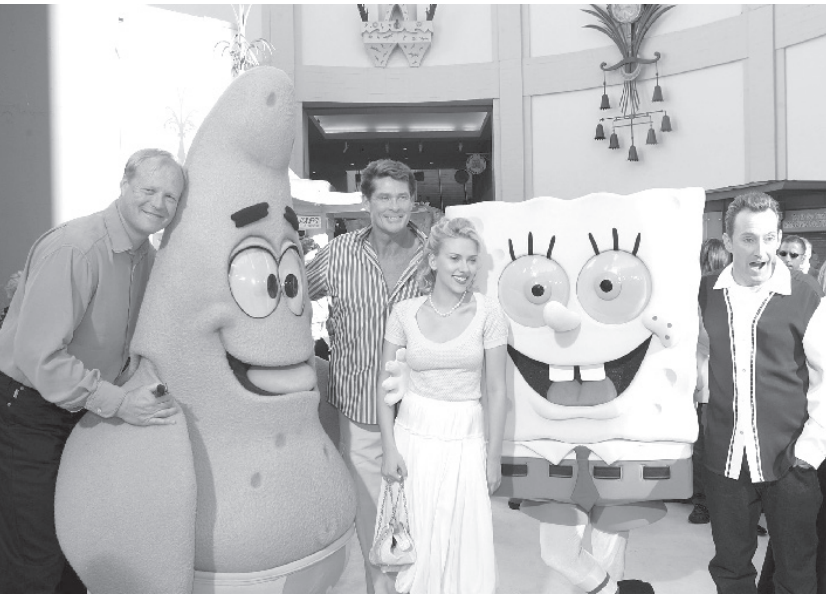
“This movie is really SpongeBob’s big adventure,” Hillenburg said, referencing the first movie of similar nerd character Pee-Wee Herman.

BALD SPOT: Among the movie’s celebrity voices is Jeffrey Tambor as the overly angry King Neptune, whose missing crown reveals his blinding baldness.

Tambor, the criminal father from the Emmy-winning comedy “Arrested Development” and the pathetic “Hey, now!” announcer from “The Larry Sanders Show,” said he shares the follicle-challenged scalp of the character, but not his insecurities.

“I don’t have those issues. I look lousy in a rug,” Tambor said. “I worked because of being bald, so I’m blessed. I mean, I was the guy in summer stock (theater) who played all the old guys at 16.”

PATRICK THE STARFISH: Bill Fagerbakke, best known as Dauber



Actors Bill Fagerbakke, from left, David Hasselhoff, Scarlet Johansson and actor Tom Kenny arrive at the premiere of “The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie,” Sunday, Nov. 14, 2004, in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles.

from TV’s “Coach,” has a naturally deep voice, but has to swallow it further to play SpongeBob’s dopey starfish friend Patrick.

The result, he said, is an audible version of the fat/skinny look of comedy teams like Laurel and Hardy or Abbott and Costello—Patrick is the immense rumbler and SpongeBob is the high-pitched whiner.

“I just kinda pretend my mouth is in my chest and I just sloooowww down,” Fagerbakke said.

UNDERSEA SONGWRITER: Besides doing SpongeBob’s voice, Kenny also wrote two songs for the movie’s soundtrack: one with the title hero sing-

ing “The Best Day Ever” and another with Patrick singing “Under My Rock.”

A group of old-time pirates sings the theme song in the film, and Avril Lavigne belts it out on the soundtrack CD. “It originated as a sea chanty,” Hillenburg said of the theme. “It’s supposed to be like a song sailors use, a working song to keep rhythm while they’re pulling up things.”

HASSELHOFF TO THE RESCUE: Former “Baywatch” star David Hasselhoff appears in live action as a lifeguard who jumps in to help SpongeBob and Patrick in a critical moment.

“We wrote the entire sequence without asking him,” Hillenburg

said. “Fortunately, he’s a great guy. ... He didn’t even see the material and said, ‘I’m in.’ He was great at making fun of himself.”

Other celebrity voices in the movie include “Lost in Translation” star Scarlett Johansson as King Neptune’s reasonable daughter Mindy and Alec Baldwin as a deep-sea hitman.

WHY ADULTS LIKE SPONGEBOB: “It’s about keeping your kid-nature in life and not totally becoming a curmudgeon,” Hillenburg said. “As we get older it gets harder to do that.”

“SpongeBob’s job is to just be positive and think that every day is going to be the best day ever,” Kenny added. “The people around him either find that delightful or ... just irritating.”

WIFE SWAP: Kenny’s real-life wife, comic Jill Talley, supplies the deadpan voice of Karen—the computer program “wife” of the character Plankton, who is a tiny, green, megalomaniacal sea villain.

A computer on the ocean floor? Kenny says it’s one of the movie’s “Don’t-ask-why” moments. “Logic doesn’t have a place. SpongeBob and his friends light campfires underwater, they cry, they go to the beach ...”

FUTURE EPISODES: There have only been a handful of new “SpongeBob” TV episodes since 2003, but—despite rumors—the series has not been canceled.

Kenny, Fagerbakke and the rest of the crew have completed four new episodes for broadcast on Nickelodeon in early 2005. They plan to finish about 20 total.

PSS025

PSS026

Hanks may star in 'Da Vinci Code' movie



Hanks

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Will Tom Hanks crack “The Da Vinci Code”? Director Ron Howard and producer Brian Grazer, the team behind “A Beautiful Mind” and “Dr. Seuss’s How the Grinch Stole Christmas,” said in Newsweek that they wanted the “Saving Private Ryan” star because of the cerebral nature of Dan

Brown’s best-selling novel.

“Tom is an exciting actor to watch thinking,” Howard told the magazine. “We probably don’t need his status from a box-office standpoint, but he gives Langdon instant legitimacy.”

Hanks would play Robert Langdon, a Harvard symbolologist who is in a life-or-death

race with a secret society to uncover the secrets of the Holy Grail hidden in the works of Leonardo Da Vinci.

The actor’s representatives said he is in negotiations to play the part.

Hanks previously worked with Howard and Grazer on the movies “Splash” (1984) and “Apollo 13” (1995).

Blake juror prospects asked about scrutiny

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Prospective jurors in the murder trial of actor Robert Blake were asked Monday if they could endure the public scrutiny that surrounded the O.J. Simpson and Scott Peterson cases.

As jury selection moved into the personal questioning phase, defense attorney M. Gerald Schwartzbach pointed out that many people criticized the 1995 jury that acquitted Simpson of killing his ex-wife and her friend, and that others last week cheered the panel that convicted Peterson of killing his wife and her fetus.

“I would rather not be a juror,” one woman said. “I would prefer not to be in the limelight. But whatever happens will happen. I could be unprejudiced.”

Blake, 71, star of the old “Baretta” TV series and the movie “In Cold Blood,” is charged with murdering Bonny Lee Bakley, whom he married after DNA tests showed he was the father of her baby.

Bakley was shot May 4, 2001, in a car parked near a



AP

Actor Robert Blake arrives at Los Angeles Superior Court Monday, Nov. 15, 2004, for the first day of jury selection in Blake’s murder trial.

restaurant where she and Blake had just dined.

More than 1,000 prospec-

tive jurors were initially summoned for the case and more than 700 have been dis-

missed for hardship reasons.

Superior Court Judge Darlene Schempp on Monday dismissed 140 others whose written questionnaires indicated strong biases against Blake or abortion and who gave other answers indicating they could not be fair.

Prosecutors have said they will present evidence that Blake wanted Bakley to abort the baby.

Deputy District Attorney Shellie Samuels asked the prospects what they would do if they concluded that Blake had killed his wife but had done it to protect his infant daughter.

Samuels also asked if they could convict even if they don’t like what they find out about the victim. Attorneys for Blake have depicted Bakley as a con artist who solicited money from men with promises of sex.

Jury selection is expected to last a few more weeks. On Monday, eight prospective jurors were accepted for the pool, which is expected to grow to dozens.

Blake is free on \$1.5 million bail but is confined to his home.

The Who may turn out studio album

NEW YORK (AP)—The Who may be returning, again. In a posting on his Web site, Pete Townshend says that he and singer Roger Daltrey are planning to get together for the first Who studio album in over two decades.

“Roger and I (will) meet in mid December to play what we have written,” Townshend, the guitarist and primary songwriter of the group, writes. “If we move ahead from there, we may have a CD ready to release in the spring. My working-title for the project—‘Who2’—is only partly tongue-in-cheek.”

Despite famously proclaiming “hope I die before I get old” in the song “My Generation,” The Who have frequently reunited to perform since disbanding in 1983. But the new album would be the British band’s first studio recording since 1982’s “It’s Hard.”

The possible new album, Townshend says, would not be a rock opera like the band’s “Tommy” or “Quadrophenia.” A concept-less album, he says “is, in itself, a concept for me.”

Townshend, 59, is also working on an autobiography, which he says, “offers me a chance to lay down my life story and place recent events in proper context.”

Harry Potter publicist Judy Corman dies

NEW YORK (AP)—Judy Corman, the wife of best-selling author Avery Corman and the beloved head publicist for Scholastic, Inc., which releases the Harry Potter novels in the United States, has died of cancer. She was 65.

Corman died Monday at her home in Manhattan after a brief illness, Scholastic said.

“She was so strong and had such a strong spirit, I never thought she would lose a battle with anything,” Dick Robinson, chairman, president and CEO of Scholastic, told The Associated Press on Monday.

Corman, whose warm, querulous voice sounded more than a little like Mike Myers’ Linda Richman character from “Saturday Night Live,” was the main

contact for reporters eager for news about the Potter phenomenon. Hers was an overwhelming task she handled with sympathy, occasional bewilderment and an endearing reluctance to craft clever sound bites.

“She was very straight and very real and very, very smart,” Robinson said. “If she didn’t know something, she told you. She didn’t throw words around.”

A native of Brooklyn, Corman began her long career in the entertainment industry in the 1960s when she worked as a publicist with Epic Records. Her clients included Miles Davis, John Denver and Willie Nelson. She also served as public relations director for Phoenix House, the drug abuse treatment agency, and worked on several

accounts for the communications firm Robinson, Lerer & Montgomery.

Corman joined Scholastic in 1999 as senior vice president of corporate communications. Two years later, she received a New York Women in Communications Matrix Award in Public Relations, presented by writer-director Nora Ephron, a longtime friend.

Survivors include Corman’s parents, Roslyn and Bennie Lishinsky, and her husband, best known as the author of “Kramer vs. Kramer,” which was adapted into an Academy Award-winning movie starring Dustin Hoffman and Meryl Streep. Corman is also survived by two sons, Matthew and Nicholas.

New TBS reality series features Hunter

NEW YORK (AP)—Just sit right back, and you’ll hear a tale ... a tale of a new reality show. On Monday, “The Real Gilligan’s Island”—a new TBS reality show that drops real people who fit the mold of the original 1960s characters onto an island—announced who will play Ginger, the pampered movie star: Rachel Hunter.

Hunter, the swimsuit model turned actress, “shares the

flightiness and aloofness of Ginger,” according to the TBS Web site. “She tends to drift and wander without care for what is going on around her.”

The other contestants of the show are also chosen to reflect the still familiar sitcom characters, including the Professor (here, a New York University prof.) and the Skipper (a Massachusetts small business owner and, well, a skipper).

The “real” Gilligan is a 20-year-old college guy who works at a marina, and, apparently, “has been preparing for this role his entire life because he is Gilligan.”

In the show, the castaways will have to work together to get off an island, and in various contests, will relive scenarios from the classic series.

“The Real Gilligan’s Island” premieres Nov. 30 on TBS.

Diamonds for ‘other woman’ put marriage on the rocks

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: I recently found out that my husband of 20 years bought diamond earrings and something from Victoria’s Secret for another woman. His explanation? “She’s just a friend, and she’s married to a jerk.” He has told me many different stories about her. I checked them out and found they were all lies.

Someone once told me that when a man buys diamond earrings or a bracelet, it means he’s already slept with her. What do you think?

WANTS THE TRUTH IN MINNESOTA



Dear Abby

DEAR WANTS THE TRUTH: Diamond earrings? That’s quite an investment. When a man gives diamonds to a woman, it’s a good bet that he’s getting plenty in return—or hoping to.

DEAR ABBY: Some friends of ours, “Rhonda” and “Mike,” planned to be married. They have two small children together. Mike is a longtime childhood friend of my husband’s; we met Rhonda through Mike. Mike and Rhonda are no longer together. It was a messy breakup. They no longer speak to each other, and they even have relatives intercede in the exchange of their children so they do not have to see each other.

My husband and I gave Rhonda \$100 as a down payment on the wedding dress that she just “had” to have. Mike and Rhonda both thanked us, and said not to buy a wedding gift, that the money was gift enough. Rhonda bought the dress and now plans to sell it.

My husband and I are not well-off, and we would like our money back. We feel that now the wedding has been canceled, the money should be returned. Rhonda has not offered to do it. Should we confront her and tell her that when she sells the dress that we’d like the \$100 back? How should we handle this?

WANTS OUR MONEY IN WASHINGTON

DEAR WANTS: Rather than “confront” Rhonda, remind her that when she sells the dress, you would like her to return the money. But don’t hold your breath. Since your friendship was based on your longstanding friendship with Mike, she may assume that her relationship with you is history—and not feel inclined to do so.

DEAR ABBY: I have fallen in love with a wonderful man I’ll call “Hank.” Hank is everything I want in a man. We have been together for five months, and he is always very well-dressed—which is important to me. I take pride in the way I look and want my partner to do the same.

Hank and I went out yesterday. It was cold outside and Hank said he would wear a sweater. Well, Abby, the sweater looked like something he found in a trash bin! It was stained, dirty and faded. How do I tell Hank that sweater has to go without hurting his feelings? I felt embarrassed to be with him, which I hated to admit to myself. How can I tell him not to wear it again?

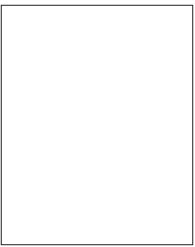
EMBARRASSED IN ILLINOIS

DEAR EMBARRASSED: Do NOT tell him not to wear it again, or that you felt embarrassed to be seen with him in it. When an otherwise spiffy dresser wears a garment that is “old, stained, faded,” etc., it is safe to assume that the item has sentimental value. Since you prefer that he wear something nicer, buy him a sweater or two—and as the weather grows colder, let him know how much it would please you to see him in something you selected especially for him.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order “How to Be Popular.” Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

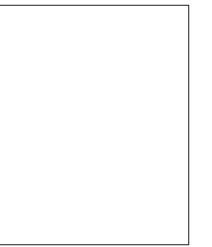




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SAIPAN TRIBUNE